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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/271,503	03/18/1999	KENICHI MORITA	325772008700	4229

7590 04/02/2004
Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 300
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER

LAMB, TWYLER MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

21

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/271,503

Applicant(s)

MORITA ET AL.

Examiner

Twyler M. Lamb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant (s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: Request for Reconsideration filed on 1/21/04.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Withdrawal of 35 USC § 112 Rejections

3. The explanation provided in Response (Paper # 15) makes the first and second states clear. The 35 USC § 112 rejection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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5. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. (Takeda) (US 5,845,057).

Regarding claim 1, Takeda discloses an imaging processor (Figure 1) comprising: a plurality of function blocks (Figure 1, digital copying machines D1 and D2, printing apparatuses P1 and P2, terminals C1 and C2) connectable to each other and dealing with image data (column 5, lines 25-32); an interface (Figure 4, interface 307) connected to a network (network N) (column 9, lines 5-13) and a bus changer (Figure 4, I/F 308) which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 9, lines 5-13).

Regarding claim 2, Takeda discloses wherein said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block (scanner 313) which receives image data, an image processing block (image processing portion 314) which deals with image data, and an image output block (printer 315) which outputs the image data (column 8, lines 7-10 and lines 8-21).

Regarding claim 3, Takeda discloses wherein said image input block receives image data read with an image sensor (column 7, lines 4-13).

Regarding claim 4, Takeda discloses wherein said image output block prints an image on a registering medium (column 7, lines 39-43).

Regarding claim 5, Takeda discloses wherein said bus changer which is connected to the image input block changes the bus connection such that image data from said network is received through said interface and sent to said network through said image output block or said interface (col 8, lines 13-17).

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Regarding claim 6, Takeda discloses wherein one of said function blocks comprises a memory which stores an application program (col 5, lines 41-48), and a controller (CPU) which processes the image data according to the application program (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 7, Takeda inherently discloses wherein said memory has a capacity which stores another application program further (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 8, Takeda wherein said a memory comprises a management table which manages the application programs stored therein (col 5, line 58 – col 6, line 2).

Regarding claims 9 and 16, Takeda discloses an imaging processor (Figure 1) comprising: a plurality of function blocks (Figure 1, digital copying machines D1 and D2, printing apparatuses P1 and P2, terminals C1 and C2) connectable to each other and dealing with image data (column 5, lines 25-32); an interface (Figure 4, interface 307) connected to a network (network N) (column 9, lines 5-13) and a bus changer (Figure 4, I/F 308) which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 9, lines 5-13); and a controller (CPU) which discriminates data received from said network and controls data transmission to one of the function blocks to be operated (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 10, Takeda discloses further comprising a power supply controller which supplies electric power to function blocks to be operated in said plurality of function blocks (which reads on specifying which printer to transfer the data to perform the printing) (col 11, lines 21-24).

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Regarding claim 11, Takeda discloses wherein said power supply controller stops power supply to said function blocks after processing in said function block is completed (which reads on specifying which printer to transfer the data to perform the printing) (col 11, lines 21-24).

Regarding claim 12, Takeda discloses wherein said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block (scanner 313) which receives image data, an image processing block (image processing portion 314) which deals with image data, and an image output block (printer 315) which outputs the image data (column 8, lines 7-10 and lines 8-21).

Regarding claim 13, Takeda discloses an imaging processor (Figure 1) comprising: a plurality of function blocks (Figure 1, digital copying machines D1 and D2, printing apparatuses P1 and P2, terminals C1 and C2) connectable to each other and dealing with image data (column 5, lines 25-32); an interface (Figure 4, interface 307) connected to a network (network N) (column 9, lines 5-13) and a bus changer (Figure 4, I/F 308) which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface (column 9, lines 5-13); a memory having a function management table to manage executable functions (col 5, line 58 – col 6, line 2) and a controller (CPU) which discriminates data received from said network and controls data transmission to one of the function blocks to be operated (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 14, Takeda discloses wherein one of said function blocks comprises a memory which stores an application program (col 5, lines 41-48) and a

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controller (CPU) which processes the image data according to the application program (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 15, Takeda inherently discloses wherein said memory has a capacity which stores another application program further (col 5, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 17, Takeda wherein said a memory comprises a management table which manages the application programs stored therein (col 5, line 58 – col 6, line 2).

Regarding claim 18, Takeda discloses the method further comprising the step of sending a signal to request execution of the function to the external image processor (col 8, lines 13-17).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see Response, filed 1/13/04 and the telephone interview on 3/4/04, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-19 under 35 USC 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Takeda et al. (Takeda) (US 5,845,057).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler Lamb whose telephone number is 703 - 308-8823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-308-4712. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Twyler Lamb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Lamb' or similar, written over the printed name.

March 31, 2004